

Date: Wed, 10 Mar 93 04:30:24 PST
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V93 #297
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest Wed, 10 Mar 93 Volume 93 : Issue 297

Today's Topics:

 200km range radio phone?
 A pair of coax <-> ladder line ???
 Daily Solar Geophysical Data Broadcast for 09 March
 Flexible 2m 1/4 wave antenna
 Ham Radio Outlet incident
 Knwd TS-440 Computer Cntrl Opt, anyone have experience?
 License delays
 Lightning and inside wiring
 source for spools of wire

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: 9 Mar 93 19:35:19 GMT
From: usc!wupost!spool.mu.edu!hri.com!noc.near.net!gateway!miki!
wpns@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: 200km range radio phone?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

amf7@ns1.cc.lehigh.edu (ALDO MARCO FRIGO) writes:
>a friend of mine in Italy is looking for a radio phone that works like a
>cordless with a 100/200 Km range (+-100 miles).
>Does anybody know if such thing exists? Thank you.

A few ideas that come to mind:

Get a cellphone (if they have cellphone service in the area)

Get an Inmarsat phone (works worldwide, fits in a large suitcase or two)

Wait a few years and buy an Iridium phone (works worldwide, should be about the size of a portable cellphone +/- 3dB)

Get an IMTS mobile phone (if there's service available)

Those are all the legal ones I can think of. The notso legal ones may get you hauled off to jail, make your phone available for use by anyone within 100 miles, or work poorly at best (or all of the above). I dunno what the amateur radio regulations are like in Italy, but if it's anything like the US, putting up a repeater with an autopatch probably isn't what you are looking for, due to content restrictions (does the Italian PTT even allow autopatches?)

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Willie Smith
wpns@pictel.com
N1JBJ@amsat.org

Date: Tue, 9 Mar 1993 20:19:12 GMT
From: sdd.hp.com!hpscit.sc.hp.com!hplextra!hpl-opus!hpnmdla!alanb@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: A pair of coax <-> ladder line ???
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In rec.radio.amateur.misc, kip@utxvms.cc.utexas.edu writes:

>I was once told that I can get the same efficiency benefits of open-wire line
>by using a pair of coaxial cables, shorting the shields together at both ends,
>and using the two center conductors as the actual antenna leads. My source
>told me that this was not only as efficient as ladder line but also gave most
>of the shielding benefits of coax, and that I could bury the cables or in
>general just not worry about what they ran close to the way I would with ladder
>line.

The loss will be the same as with a single coax, assuming the double coax "sees" twice the impedance as the single coax. Other than that, using two 50-ohm coaxes is a perfectly good, convenient way of obtaining shielded, 100-ohm balanced feedline. Be sure the electrical length of each piece is identical. If you cut them from the same roll and make them physically the same length, that should be close enough.

>Is this true? Can I really hook such an arrangement up to a random length
>vertical and a ground plane, put a transmatch in my shack, and get good
>performance?

Except that the ground plane antenna is UNbalanced and low impedance.
For that you want a single coax.

AL N1AL

Date: 10 Mar 93 06:46:08 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: Daily Solar Geophysical Data Broadcast for 09 March
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

!!BEGIN!! (1.0) S.T.D. Solar Geophysical Data Broadcast for DAY 068, 03/09/93
10.7 FLUX=142.6 90-AVG=137 SSN=102 BKI=7665 3324 BAI=051
BGND-XRAY=B2.6 FLU1=2.2E+07 FLU10=6.8E+04 PKI=7876 4434 PAI=078
BOU-DEV=228,191,156,086,038,033,015,047 DEV-AVG=099 NT SWF=00:000
XRAY-MAX= C1.4 @ 0218UT XRAY-MIN= A0.0 @ 0811UT XRAY-AVG= B4.9
NEUTN-MAX= +001% @ 1410UT NEUTN-MIN= -003% @ 1945UT NEUTN-AVG= -0.7%
PCA-MAX= +0.1DB @ 2355UT PCA-MIN= -0.2DB @ 0355UT PCA-AVG= +0.0DB
BOUTF-MAX=55468NT @ 0254UT BOUTF-MIN=55342NT @ 0828UT BOUTF-AVG=55397NT
GOES7-MAX=E:+173NT@ 0334UT GOES7-MIN=E:-052NT@ 0005UT G7-AVG=+084,+059,+012
GOES6-MAX=P:+169NT@ 1658UT GOES6-MIN=N:-219NT@ 0001UT G6-AVG=+098,-002,-081
FLUXFCST=STD:140,135,135;SESC:140,135,135 BAI/PAI-FCST=020,010,010/020,015,010
KFCST=4445 5333 4345 4322 27DAY-AP=014,014 27DAY-KP=2333 3342 4332 3334
WARNINGS=*MAJFLR;*SWF;*PROTON;*PCA
ALERTS=**PROTNENH;**MAJSTRM
!!END-DATA!!

Date: 9 Mar 93 23:09:38 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: Flexible 2m 1/4 wave antenna
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Does anyone make a flexible 2m 1/4 wave antenna on a BNC plug? That is
a non-helical, non-lossey antenna that won't break when you run it into
solid objects.

Kevin Purcell N7WIM / G8UDP
a-kevinp@microsoft.com
"We conjure the spirits of the computer with our spells"

Date: 9 Mar 1993 22:27:31 GMT
From: usc!wupost!spool.mu.edu!agate!darkstar.UCSC.EDU!ra.UCSC.EDU!

sutin@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Ham Radio Outlet incident
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <randall.731623999@seashore->randall@informix.com (Randall Rhea)
writes:

-> A very interesting thing happened to me at Ham Radio Outlet in
-> Sunnyvale last week. I was admiring the new Kenwood TS-50 mobile
-> rig when a gentleman who appeared to be the manager approached me.
-> "Are you Randall Rhea?" he asked. I didn't know I was a celebrity.
-> "Yes I am" was my reply. "Well, look, the people who work for me
-> here on the weekends are volunteers." He appeared to be a bit
-> perturbed. He then walked away. I then felt quite wierd, put back
-> the items I was going to purchase, and walked out of the store.

-> I certainly thought this was a strange exchange, but then I realized
-> what he was talking about. A few weeks ago, I posted an article in
-> reply to someone who was unhappy with the service at HRO. I
-> [...]

Almost undoubtedly, someone got the attribution wrong. I have had
articles not written by me (but responded to by me) attributed to me
in all sorts of non-internet publications. Someone probably goofed,
and by the time the manager at HRO got the story, your name was
attached to the original posting.

Brian Sutin sutin@lick.ucsc.edu
Lick Observatory, UCSC Santa Cruz, CA 95064
Fred: "May I rescue you?"
Ginger: "No, thank you. I prefer being in distress."

Date: Wed, 10 Mar 93 00:49:52 GMT
From: ucsnews!sol.ctr.columbia.edu!howland.reston.ans.net!agate!stanford.edu!
nntp.Stanford.EDU!dlewi@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Knwd TS-440 Computer Cntrl Opt, anyone have experience?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I've got a Kenwood TS-440S/AT and am looking for anyone who
has added Kenwood's computer control interface option,
the IC-10A and IF-232C.

The IC-10A seems to be a new MPU/ROM while the IF-232C is a level
translator and maybe cable/adaptor. Can I build the later myself and
save they \$100 they charge? Does this option really exist?

Dave Lewis
drlewi1@pacbell.com

My first license took 4 weeks, and arrived December '91. My second took 12 weeks and arrived in December '92. The third took 6 weeks from the time that it was actually mailed to Gettysburg, and arrived 2 weeks ago. Apparently the backlog at the end of last year is clearing, and I have heard that the FCC is telling the VECs 90 days again (it had been up to 120). I think they are doing a reasonably good job now ... it just SEEMS like a long time.

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[-----]
| Luke Hamaty KQ40Q           "More than gold, I love to complain."      |
| Impact Technologies Group - Trurl, from The Cyberiad                    |
|                               |                                           |
| 800-438-6017 or 704-549-1100                                           |
|                               |                                           |
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In rec.radio.amateur.misc, atul@nynexst.com (Atul Chhabra) writes:

You didn't mention how you are "pushing" the rod into the earth. I have always been successful with a large sledge hammer and a strong back, even in very rocky earth.

AL N1AL

Date: Wed, 10 Mar 1993 00:18:03 GMT
From: agate!howland.reston.ans.net!usc!cs.utexas.edu!convex!tonyp@ames.arpa
Subject: source for spools of wire
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I need to get wire. Lots of wire. About 3,000' (holy rhombic, batman!)

Does anyone know of a place that will sell small lots to the public?

PHYSICS QUESTION:

What is the best gauge to use - seeing as it will be spanning about
600' non-stop (between tie points)?

Is stranded or solid better?

--

Tony J. Podrasky Why does your dog keep staring and growling at me?
San Diego , Ca Because he thinks you're stealing his food from
him.

tonyp@convex.com Why would he think that?
QSL? QRU? QRZ? QLZ? QFA? Well, you **are** eating out of his dish...

Date: Wed, 10 Mar 1993 00:23:48 GMT
From: agate!usenet.ins.cwru.edu!neoucom.edu!wtm@ames.arpa
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <1n9bbq\$19g@bigboote.WPI.EDU>, <1993Mar7.220133.1@vaxc.stevens-
tech.edu>, <C3Kt5o.3H2@constellation.ecn.uoknor.edu>
Subject : Re: Periphex (and rubber radios)

It would be very easy for Icom to manufacture their battery cases
from material that is elastic enough to separate from the radio,
flexing, without breaking.

I don't know if Icom has intentionally designed the BP-8x packs to
be overly fragile, but it really is a lousy design. It wouldn't be
difficult to redesign the case to be more survivable without unduly
endangering the radio. At worst, a screw-mounted plastic top rail
could be fitted to the pack so that it could be replaced when worn
or damaged. For the \$78.75 (from AES) that Icom expects us to
shell out for a BP-84, I don't feel shy to complain.

A couple of minor notes:

1. The BP-90 will pop off without damage if you bump the radio. I can provide a data point to confirm this. It also costs only about \$9.00 to refill the BP-90 when the cells are shot -- a lot better than \$51.25 for a BP-83.

2. You can repair a broken BP-8x with PVC plastic pipe cement. I bought some stuff called 71-140 Plumbcraft PVC Plastic Cement at the local hardware store for \$2.00 for 1/4 pint. That is several lifetimes' supply for fixing broken BP-8x packs. There is also 71-149 Plumbcraft CPVC Primer Purple that is used to pre-clean the mating surfaces, but I don't think you'll need it. It seems to be essentially the same formula as the cement, but in a more volatile vehicle with some purple dye.

I fixed my BP-84 after an unfortunate encounter with the edge of my desk. The repaired pack seems just as strong as original. Note that the PVC cement softens the plastic to form a bond; this means that the clearance between the top of the pack and the bottom of the rail may be slightly reduced. You may need to file the channel a bit to provide adequate clearance for the rail on the radio.

Bill

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Bill Mayhew NEOUCOM Computer Services Department
Rootstown, OH 44272-9995 USA phone: 216-325-2511
wtm@uhura.neoucom.edu (140.220.1.1) 146.580: N8WED

End of Info-Hams Digest V93 #297
